

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, ranking members Kissel and Fishbein and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Paul Honig, I am from Harwinton and am a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence.

I am testifying in favor of HB-6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders.

Protecting the public from gun violence is personal for me. A member of my immediate family has suffered with depression his entire life. He has in the past attempted suicide and still periodically has bouts with suicidal ideation. Fortunately, he is not a gun owner. If he were, he probably would not be alive today given how lethal suicide by firearm is compared to other methods of suicide. I'm glad he lives in a state with an extreme risk protection order statute. I take comfort knowing that if he did acquire a firearm and was struggling with suicidal ideation, as a last resort, his loved ones could seek the government's help to temporarily remove his firearms and save his life.

I support the changes to Connecticut's ERPO statute contained in HB-6355. Requiring petitioners to demonstrate that the danger of imminent harm no longer exists, preventing an at risk person from acquiring a firearm, and allowing family members/healthcare professionals to directly petition the court are common sense reforms that still provide due process to the subject of a risk protection order.

I ask that you favorably report HB-6355 out of committee to enable the General Assembly to vote on this important bill. Strengthening our Extreme Risk Protection law will make it more effective at preventing firearm suicide and homicide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Honig

Harwinton, CT